

The listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Original): Covering device for floor coverings with a profiled cover provided with one covering flange and at least one clamping web which protrudes downward from the covering flange, extends in the longitudinal direction of the profiled cover, and is used for fastening the profiled cover in a fixture and with a compensating strip for optional use which can be fastened to the profiled cover on the underside of the covering flange by means of a form-fitting tongue and groove joint, wherein the profiled cover (4) developed from an extruded profile has a tongue and groove joint formed by at least one longitudinal groove (14) for retaining a lug (15) of a compensating strip (5) also developed from an extruded profile.

Claim 2 (Original): Covering device in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the compensating strip (5) has the basic form of an angle section with two legs (12, 13), the leg with the retaining lug (15) being adjacent to the underside of the covering flange (6) of the profiled cover (4) and the other

forming an extension of the profiled cover (4) extending downward.

Claim 3 (Original): Covering device in accordance with Claim 2, wherein the compensating strip (5) is provided with at least one supporting leg (17) projecting from leg (12) with the retaining lug (15).

Claim 4 (Original): Device in accordance with Claim 3, wherein the supporting leg (17) of the compensating strip (5) forms a coupling projection (16) for connection to the fixture (9) for the profiled cover (4).

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): Device in accordance with ~~any one of Claims 1 to 4~~ Claim 1, wherein the compensating strip (5) is provided with a peripheral projection (21) on the leg (12) adjacent to the covering flange (6) to serve as a retaining lug, said projection engaging in a longitudinal groove (22) serving as a retaining recess on the underside of the covering flange (6) or on the side of the clamping web (7) of the profiled cover (4) facing the compensating strip (5), forming a pivot axis for the compensating strip (5).

Claim 6 (Original): Device in accordance with Claim 5, wherein the leg (12) of the compensating strip (5) adjacent to the covering flange (6) is provided with an adhesive surface on the side facing the covering flange (6).

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): Method for the production of a profiled cover and at least one compensating strip for a covering device for floor coverings in accordance with ~~any one of Claims 1 to 6~~ Claim 1, wherein firstly an extruded profile (18) is produced, the cross-section of which consists of the cross-sections of the profiled cover (4) and at least one compensating strip (5), with said strip being connected to the subsequent profiled cover (4) by means of a connecting land (19) serving as a spacer, and then the compensating strip (5) is separated from the profiled cover (4) with a separating cut through the connecting land (19).

Claim 8 (Original): Method in accordance with Claim 7, wherein the connecting land (19) forms a transition surface joining the visible surfaces of the profiled cover (4) and the compensating strip (5), the transition surface being coated together with the visible surfaces of the profiled cover (4) and

the compensating strip (5), before the connecting land (19) is severed.